

IN THE DRAWINGS:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figs. 1, 2, 4, 5, and 7. The attached sheets, including Figs. 1, 2, 4, 5, and 7, replace the original sheets including Figs. 1, 2, 4, 5, and 7.

REMARKS

The Office Action dated November 28, 2006 has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments to the specification, drawings and claims, and the following remarks, are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

The specification is amended to correct informalities and to properly incorporate essential subject matter. Figures 1, 2, 4, 5 and 7 are amended. Claims 2-11 and 13-22 are amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the present invention and to correct typographical informalities. No new matter is added. Applicants are grateful for the indication that claims 1-4, 7-15 and 19-24 are allowed. Claims 5, 6, 16 and 17 are respectfully submitted for consideration.

The Office Action objected to the drawings because reference characters "124" in Fig. 1 and "122" in Fig. 5 are both used to designate "DET" & "DEC". Applicants submit that Fig. 5 is amended to replace "122" with "124".

The Office Action also objected to Figs. 1, 2, 4, 5 and 7 because the illustrated elements were not properly labeled. Applicants respectfully submit that Figs. 1, 2, 4, 5 and 7 are amended to add labels to the illustrated elements in accordance with the specification. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

The Office Action objected to the specification because it improperly incorporated by reference, material that is essential to claimed subject matter. The specification is amended to include a description of the Consecutive Mean Excision Algorithm (CME),

which was the subject of the incorporated material. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that material essential to claims 5, 6, 16 and 17 is properly incorporated into the specification.

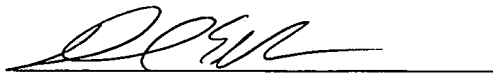
The Office Action asserted that the disclosure does not mention how elements BW 208 and OR 210 function with the rest of the elements shown in Fig. 2. Applicants respectfully submit that the specification is amended to show the above elements with respect to Fig. 2. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the specification is respectfully requested.

Applicants are grateful for the acknowledgement that claims 1-4, 7-15 and 19-25 are allowed. Applicants further submit that in light of the above amendments to the specification, claims 5, 6, 16, 17 and 25 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that each of claims 5, 6, 16 and 17 be allowed, and this application passed to issue.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,



David E. Brown
Registration No. 51,091

Customer No. 32294
SQUIRE, SANDERS & DEMPSEY LLP
14TH Floor
8000 Towers Crescent Drive
Tysons Corner, Virginia 22182-2700
Telephone: 703-720-7800
Fax: 703-720-7802

DEB:jf:jkm

Enclosures: Replacement Drawings (4 sheets – Figs. 1, 2, 4, 5, and 7)